

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Farmer's Delight (Update and Boundary Decrease)

other names/site number VHDR File Number 053-0121

2. Location

street & number 36276 Mountville Road not for publication N/A

city or town Middleburg vicinity X

state Virginia code VA county Loudoun code 107 zip code 20117

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant X nationally X statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined eligible for the National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined not eligible for the National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>12</u>	<u>3</u> buildings
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u> sites
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>18</u>	<u>4</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1**Name of related multiple property listing** (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE</u>	<u>Agricultural Field</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE</u>	<u>Animal Facility</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
<u>CULTURE</u>	<u>Museum</u>
<u>EDUCATION</u>	<u>Research Facility</u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE; BRICK
roof SYNTHETICS: Slate; METAL: Tin
walls BRICK
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☒ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance circa 1792-1959

Significant Dates 1792; circa 1925; circa 1940; 1948-1959

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) Ambassador George McGhee

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Timchenko, Boris (Landscape Architect)

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☒ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☒ Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia; The McGhee Foundation, Middleburg, Virginia.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 89.54 Acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
1 18/0261287/4322797 2 18/0261948/4322466 3 18/0261263/4321997 4 18/0261490/4322496

☐ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Justin Bedard/Sandra DeChard

organization Cultural Resources, Inc. date 8/29/2008

street & number PO Box 32/1049 Technology Park Drive telephone (301)830-0033

city or town Brunswick/Glen Allen state MD/VA zip code 21716/23059

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name The McGhee Foundation

street & number 36276 Mountville Road telephone (540) 687-3743

city or town Middleburg state VA zip code 20117

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Farmer's Delight (Update and Boundary Decrease)
Loudoun County, Virginia**

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SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Farmers Delight is located on Mountville Road northeast of the intersection of Foxcroft and Mountville roads in Loudoun County, Virginia. The mansion house faces southeast and is situated on the eastern section of the 89.5 acre property. A long circular gravel drive terminates in front of the house and a stone walkway leads to the front entry. The drive continues past the house and divides with the west branch leading to the outbuildings constructed by the Frost family and used for their horse farm, while the eastern branch extends over the property line to the adjacent lot, formerly part of the estate. The acreage immediately surrounding the mansion house consists of manicured lawns and large fir trees. The original section of the mansion house at Farmers Delight is a two-story, five-bay, brick, side-gable, Federal-style dwelling constructed circa 1792. The brick pattern of the main block facade is Flemish bond, while English bond is employed on the gable ends. Fenestration on the main block includes six-over-nine, double-hung-sash, wood windows on the first floor, and six-over-six on the second floor, all with molded surrounds. Wings off the north and south gable ends were added in the early 20th century when the Frost family owned the property. The south kitchen wing was added onto the earlier kitchen ell behind the south wing in 1962 during Ambassador McGhees ownership. The addition employed the use of English- and running-bond brick patterns.

Secondary contributing resources, mostly constructed in the early- to mid-twentieth century, include the following: agricultural and equestrian related outbuildings (two horse stables, dairy barn, hay barn, storage building, wood frame barn, machinery shed, silo), tenant house with garage and shed, a brick garage, a stone carriage house, a cemetery, a boxwood maze, terraced gardens, a swimming pool, and tennis courts. Non-contributing resources include: a brick shed (1960), a log building moved to the property in the 1960s, an arboretum (1964), and a German-style chapel (1989).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Primary Resource

The original section of the mansion house at Farmers Delight is a Federal-style, two-story, single-pile dwelling constructed circa 1792 for Colonel Joseph Lane and his wife Katherine. According to an insurance

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measured 43 by 24 feet.¹ The policy also included a stone kitchen 28 feet from the gable-end of the house.² The main block of the house sits on a stone and brick foundation, though only half the house is over a basement. The façade and rear elevation are clad in a Flemish-bond brick pattern while the gable ends are English bond. A brick stringcourse divides the stories on both the front and rear and modillions ornament the cornice. The three dormers located on the front slope of the roof with gable-end returns are believed to have been added prior to 1949.³ Interior-end chimneys are located at both gable ends. Fenestration on the main block includes six-over-nine, double-hung-sash, wood windows on the first floor, and six-over-six on the second floor, with four-over-four on the gable-ends, all with molded surrounds, and three-over-three in the front dormers. Shutter pins are still extant, although the shutters have been removed. Brick lintels are above the windows and doors and are one-and-a-half brick lengths in height. The recessed front entry is relatively plain and consists of a wide wood door with glass panes in the upper section and shallow raised panels with molding on the bottom. A five-light transom is above the door and a faint shadow of a door surround is visible. The door surround was added after 1936 and removed in 1966.⁴ The rear entry has six lights in the upper section and the same style panels as the front door. A mid-20th century pedimented porch supported by Tuscan-style columns and ornamented with dentils and gable-end returns protects the entry.

Colonial Revival-style wings, circa 1925, on either side of the main block are similarly treated in design although added in the early 20th century by the Frost family, who owned the property from 1919 to 1948. The west wing is two bays while the east is three, including an entry door in the first bay. Both additions are brick, with crawl spaces underneath, have standing-seam metal roofs, modillioned cornices, six-over-six, double-hung-sash, wood windows and gable-end returns. Although the west wing is constructed to blend with the main block, the brick work is a running-bond pattern and does not replicate the Flemish bond of the original house. The entrance on the gable-end has a pedimented porch supported by square posts and pilasters, while the east wing has an enclosed, two-story porch off its northeast elevation. The columns used in the porch design are the same style as those used in the pedimented entry porch on the west wing, which suggests they are contemporary.

Behind the south wing are three additions. The first, circa 1940, is a narrow two-story ell of brick construction with a standing-seam metal roof. The brick coursing is done in an English-bond pattern. Incorporated into the design are tall cornice boards and molded

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gable-end returns. A narrow brick interior-end chimney is also present. Brick lintels like those on the main block are used over the windows and door on the rear elevation. Windows are six-over-six, double-hung sash with four-light-sash in the attic space, while the entry is a nine-light and wood-paneled door.

Constructed on the eastern elevation of the ell is a one-story, shed-roofed addition, which is used as a hallway to access the dining room in the main block. This addition appears to be circa 1940. The design is similar to the ell including tall cornice boards and standing-seam metal roof; however, the brick pattern of the walls is Flemish bond to emulate the original structure. Brick lintels of the same style are also used over the entry door and six-over-six windows.

Off the western elevation of the ell is a two-story wing, also brick, constructed in 1962 during the ownership of the McGhee family. The bricks are laid in an English-bond pattern and the gable-end has a circular vent. Brick lintels in the same style as found throughout the building are also incorporated into this addition over the six-over-six, double-hung-sash windows. A one-bay entry porch with shed-roofed addition supported by turned posts protects the gable-end entry. This addition, like the others, also has a standing-seam metal roof.

The ell off the north wing is wider than the western ell and has a lower pitched roof that is covered in standing-seam metal. This addition is done in a Flemish-bond brick pattern with brick lintels; however, the lintels on the second floor are only a single brick in height. Windows are six-over-six, double-hung-sash on this addition as well, and a narrow brick chimney projects through the rear roof slope.

The interior of the main house is a traditional single-pile plan with a central hall and a room on either side. The stair leading to the second floor has a simple turned newel, a molded handrail [and] turned balusters and brackets. Interior walls are plaster with some walls papered. Flanking the front door are corner cupboards. Six-panel wood doors with molded trim are typical throughout as are the molded chair rails and baseboards. In the parlor the cornice molding is more decorative and includes dentils. Fireplace surrounds are elaborate as well. The parlor surround has three short pilasters supporting the molded shelf and a band of reeding below [while in the dining room the surround] consists of a molded cornice with punch work and dentils.⁵ Floor boards throughout the first floor appear to be original.

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The second floor of the main block of the house retains its Federal-style fireplace surrounds, door and window surrounds as well as its doors and chair rails. The walls of the hallway and north bedroom are plaster. Presently the south bedroom is wallpapered. Flooring in the second floor also appears to be original.

The attic of the main block is finished and was used for bedrooms. Framing in this space was not easily visible, but was visible in a cut out in the third floor landing where electrical work was being done. The framing in this small area appeared to be common rafters with collar ties. The house includes a partial basement, though framing was difficult to see due to the addition of a mid-to-late 20th century concrete bunker. Visible on the south wall; however is the original board-and-batten bulkhead door with its iron strap hinges attached with wrought nails.

The Colonial Revival-style additions, constructed during the ownership of the Frost family, off each gable end of the main block include a fully paneled den in the south wing with a room above and sitting rooms in the north wing with bedrooms on the second floor. The wood surfaces in the den are stained in the traditional interpretation of the Colonial Revival style and not painted. The first floor room in the north wing contains two rooms, also Colonial Revival in style. The northern room contains a Colonial Revival-style fireplace surround and niches, while the southern room is relatively unadorned. The northern chamber in the north wing also has a Colonial-revival fireplace surround. The door surround leading into the chamber over the ell, added by the McGhees, is rounded while the closet doors have raised panels. The second floor of the south wing has little ornamentation and is more utilitarian in nature.

Off the rear wall of the north wing is an ell which contains a 1940s era kitchen with a modern office on the second floor. When the south kitchen wing was added in the 1960s to this ell, the windows on the south gable end wall of the first kitchen ell were altered. The east window was bricked up and the west window was converted to a door in order to access the second floor of the wing. Above the 1960s kitchen are two offices. The second floor spaces of these additions are relatively unadorned. The ell off the rear wall of the north wing contains a room and bathroom with a bedroom and additional bath on the second floor.

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Loudoun County, VirginiaSection 7 Page 5Secondary Resources

Secondary resources associated with the late 19th to mid-20th century agricultural practices of Farmer's Delight include two horse stables, a dairy barn, a hay barn, a storage shed, an additional wood frame barn, a machinery shed, a silo, and a tenant house with its associated outbuildings. Most of the agricultural buildings were constructed in the early 20th century during the time Henry W. Frost, Jr. owned the property. All are considered contributing resources as they fall within the period of significance and exhibit the types of structures necessary to accommodate dairy cattle and Frost's thoroughbred horses.

The horse stables, contributing buildings, are located closest to the main house along both sides of the gravel drive. On the southwest side of the road is the smaller colt stable. The building is a one-story, side-gable, four-bay structure with an asymmetrical gable roof covered in standing-seam metal. Exterior walls are clad in drop siding, typical of its early 20th-century construction. Each bay across the front contains a board-and-batten two-part stable door. A small window opening with plain board surrounds is located on the west side and four openings are across the rear. Each of the rear openings has a small board-and-batten door. A window has been enclosed with weatherboards on the east side of the building. The interior of the building consists of unfinished walls and wood floors.

Across the drive is the larger of the two horse stables, which is similar in style to the colt stable. This seven-bay stable is constructed as a two-story, side-gable building with a gable-roofed projection on the west side. Two square cupolas, with louvers and topped with pyramidal roofs, are located on the ridgeline of this standing-seam metal roof. The first floor on the south side of the building is recessed to accommodate a one-story, full-length porch sheltering the seven stall doors. The stall doors are the same board-and-batten style as the colt barn. The porch is supported by square posts and has a board floor. The exterior is clad with vertical board-and-batten siding with large modern plate glass windows in the gable-ends. Other fenestration consists of a six-light window on the east gable-end and seven single-light window openings with plain board surrounds across the rear. The interior of the larger horse stable also has unfinished walls and wood floors.

Northwest of the main house is a small, three-bay dairy barn, a contributing building. This structure is set back from the road and has a steep, side-gable, standing-seam metal roof. A small square cupola with a pyramidal roof and louvered sides is centered on the

ridgeline. The three bays across the front consist of two small six-light windows with plain board surrounds flanking a center board-and-batten door. Vertical board-and-batten siding covers this frame building. The interior consists of a single room with unfinished walls and a concrete floor. The two original milking stations with metal stanchions survive.

On the south side and adjacent to the road is another two-story, four-bay barn, a contributing building, formerly used for hay storage. This side-gable building is clad in vertical board-and-batten siding, like the dairy barn, and the roof is covered in standing-seam metal. This structure also has a centered square cupola with louvers and is topped by a pyramidal roof; however, the louvered walls have been boarded up. Sliding doors on rails are located on the north and south sides of the barn; however the rear door opening has been enclosed with large modern plate-glass windows. An additional entry door is found on the south side and is also board-and-batten. Other fenestration consists of six-light windows on the rear with plain board surrounds and single-light windows on the front. Large modern plate glass windows have also replaced the original siding on the west gable allowing natural light in for viewing Ambassador McGhees collections. Constructed off the west gable-end is a one-story, shed-roofed addition with a large bay opening and a board-and-batten entry door. The materials used for the addition are the same as the main barn.

A small storage building, a contributing building, is located to the west of the hay barn and is constructed as a side-gable building with a large overhang and a later shed roof porch on the south side. The exterior is clad in weatherboard and the roof in standing-seam metal. The building has two bays that are both board-and-batten service doors with plain board surrounds. The porch roof is covered in metal and is supported by two rows of wood posts. Two small openings are located on the rear of the building, which faces the road, and a one-over-one window is located on the west gable.

Diagonally across from the storage shed on the opposite side of the drive is a one-story barn, a contributing building, with vertical board-and-batten siding and a standing-seam metal roof. The building is architecturally similar to other utilitarian structures along the gravel drive and includes a small square cupola with louvered walls centered on the ridgeline. A board-and-batten door and stove pipe are located on the buildings south gable end.

Located farthest down the gravel driveway is a large one-story shed, a contributing building, in an open V-shape used for farm machinery.

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Although the original section was built in the early 20th century, it appears the western half was constructed after 1957 as evidenced by an aerial photograph of that year (an additional barn further down the drive also appears on the photograph, but is no longer extant, although has archaeological potential).⁶ It is a side-gable building clad in beveled weatherboard and is topped by a standing-seam metal roof. Small hay bonnets have been incorporated into the gable-ends to protect large openings with plain board surrounds. Each section is a mirror of the other and has four open bays for the storage of farm equipment with an entry door in the intersection of the V. On the rear elevation is an entry door with two additional window openings. A clerestory window is also centered on each of the two sections. The building incorporates a one-story porch supported by Tuscan style columns, creating a recess. A one-story ell is located off the rear of the western section of the building. This addition is also clad in weatherboards and has a metal roof as well as small windows on the north and south elevations. A tall exterior brick chimney is located adjacent to the ell on the rear elevation of the main block. West of this V-shaped barn is the remains of a concrete stave silo, a contributing structure, built circa 1949. The dome is no longer extant, but according to the 1957 aerial photograph, it was associated with a barn that burned down in 1966 after being struck by lightning.⁷ The configuration of the barn and its use is unknown, but the site has the potential to yield archaeological information about the building and its surrounding area.

On the edge of the property along the western fence line is a two-story, three-bay, center hall L-shaped dwelling built in the late 19th century and used as a tenant house for the farm in the early 20th century. The building sits on a stone foundation and is clad in vinyl siding and has a standing-seam metal roof with gable-end returns. The gable-end returns have also been covered in vinyl. Two interior-end brick chimneys are visible. The ell on the back is constructed with a hipped roof. Windows consist of six-over-six, double-hung sashes with plain surrounds (also vinyl). The interior of this building was not able to be accessed. Two small outbuildings are also directly associated with this building and include a one-story, front-gable garage and a square utilitarian building, possibly a wellhouse, with pyramidal roof. The house and its associated outbuildings are considered contributing buildings to the property as they fall within the period of significance, illustrating the agricultural evolution of the property.

Closer to the mansion is a cemetery, located to the southwest of the house. A metal fence was placed around the stones by Ambassador McGhee to delineate the cemetery. According to the plaque it is the burial

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ground of the Lane, Crain, and Gregg families; however it is believed most of the stones were moved from other locations on the property to their present positions by Ambassador McGhee.⁸ The present head and foot stones are unorganized in their placement and depressions in the surrounding area suggest the cemetery may also be larger than portrayed. The cemetery contains the stones of Colonel Joseph Lane, Robert Crain Gregg and Elizabeth Crain, whose stone is broken, among others. Surviving full inscriptions on the stones are few with most broken and/or partial. The stone for Colonel Joseph Lane reads Sacred to the Memory of Col. Jos Lane who departed this life March 12th 1803 in the 50th year of his age It was My Will this place to fill These stones may testify, Observe this spot & till it not But all prepare to die. The stone of Robert Crain Gregg reads Sacred to the memory of Robert Crain Gregg Son of Peter & E[illegible]Gregg who was born on the 24th day of May Anno Domini 1828 and departed this life on the 2nd day of January Anno Domini 1829 aged 7 months and 9 days Early bright transient chaste as morning dew, he sparkled was exhaled and went to heaven. Only one headstone and one footstone are imbedded into the ground suggesting they are in their original location. The footstone matches a broken headstone found in the cemetery. The large stone belonging to Colonel Joseph Lane may have been originally located in the front of the house.⁹ The cemetery is a significant component to the property and considered a contributing site. The site has the potential to yield historical information about the earlier occupants of Farmers Delight.

The banked carriage house, presently used as the Library, was constructed prior to 1948. The hill on the north side of the building is a natural landform. In 1950 the building was converted by Ambassador McGhee into a playroom for his children, including enlarging the fireplace. In 1968 the building was transformed into a library.¹⁰ The building, though altered several times in the 20th century, is a contributing building and shows the adaptation of a structure to fit the changing needs of the property's owners. The now Colonial Revival-style building is frame construction in the upper portion and stone on the lower with two different style mortar joints and a large stone chimney off the rear of the building. The front, a majority of the west gable and the gable of the east elevation of the building are clad in weatherboard. The facade contains large plate-glass windows with plain board surrounds and an entry door in the last bay. Additional fenestration consists of two-over-two, double-hung-sash, wood windows. Three dormers with nine-light windows are located on the front slope of the newly redone standing-seam metal roof and two are on the rear. A small vented cupola is located in the center of the ridgeline and has a pyramidal roof and louvered walls.

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Buildings added during the time Ambassador George McGhee owned the property include a German-style chapel, a brick garage, and a brick storage shed. The chapel, located to the southwest of the house, is a one-story building constructed of stone with a gable roof covered in slate. The back of the building including the roof is rounded. A bell tower is located on the front section of the roof and round-arch windows are on the side elevations. The windows have diamond-shaped lead panes. A hipped-style roof supported by braces protects the wooden entry door. The chapel, constructed in 1989, though an integral part of the landscape, is a non-contributing building due to its modern date.

Directly to the west of the manor house is the one-story, two-bay, brick garage, a contributing building, constructed in 1951. The building has a newly painted standing-seam metal roof with small louvered cupola and six-over-six double-hung-sash, wood windows. The dormers, original to the building, were restored during the renovation of the building in 2006-2007.¹¹ The front garage bays have been altered and presently have French doors with flanking five-light, sidelights in each bay. The building is presently used as the Archival and Research facility. The garage, though altered, is a contributing resource to the property representing the evolution of building types to accommodate the changing technologies of the mid-20th century.

Also constructed during Ambassador McGhees ownership is a one-story, brick utilitarian shed located to the northwest of the brick garage. The shed is a non-contributing building to the property as its construction date of circa 1960 is beyond the date of significance. Two entry doors are located on the front façade with cupolas on the roof above each entrance. The roof is standing-seam metal and there is a small brick chimney projecting through the rear slope of the roof in the corner. Windows consist of four-light stationary windows on the front, gable end, and rear elevations.

The arboretum and terraced gardens were also added during McGhees ownership. The arboretum, added in 1964, contains approximately 120 species of evergreens including boxwood, fir trees, and hemlocks as well as magnolias and cherry trees. The arboretum is a non-contributing site as it is beyond the period of significance. As part of the overall landscape, the McGhees also added the boxwood maze, a contributing site, and several recreational facilities including the swimming pool and tennis courts, both contributing structures, and a horse ring (no longer standing). Completed between 1950 and 1954, these resources are considered contributing elements as they fall within the period of significance. The terraced gardens, circa 1950, also a contributing site, consist of reproduction chimney ruins with

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a seating area and a columned arbor. The weathered columns are thought to have come from the Benedictine Abbey at Samaron, France for William Randolph Hearsts estate, San Simeon.¹² Each double set of twelve columns has a different capital. The capitals are abstractions of Ionic and Corinthian orders. The terraced garden was designed by Boris Timchenko, who also designed landscapes for many prominent Washington D. C. families from the 1920s to 1960s and for the Watergate Complex in Washington, D. C.¹³ The terraced gardens are considered a contributing element to the property because of their association with Boris Timchenko and because the gardens fall within the period of significance. The pond on the property is a natural feature and adds to the landscape features.

Used to display George McGhees rock collection is a log building located behind the stone carriage house. The building was relocated from Middleton, Virginia, to its present site in the 1960s and is therefore considered a non-contributing building. The structure is constructed with squared-end joints and sand mortar. The mortar has been recently re-pointed. The side-gable roof with wood shingles has deteriorated because of the buildings sheltered location. A wooden nine-light, flat-paneled door provides access into the building and six-light casement windows are located in the side elevations.

Integrity of Historic Resources

The mansion house at Farmers Delight retains much of its architectural integrity as well as its setting. Modifications and additions to the original Federal block in the early to mid-20th century have been compatible in both material and design, thus preserving the intended feeling of the resource.

Outbuildings constructed during the early 20th century to accommodate the property s new function as a thoroughbred horse farm retain most of their integrity. Two secondary resources, the stone carriage house and brick garage, although altered for reuse, still retain their integrity of form and architectural elements. The cemetery yields the potential for historic archaeological information regarding its residents even though stones have been moved to the site. The original grave markers present lend credence to the integrity of the cemetery. The garden designed by Boris Timchenko, including the boxwood maze and other landscape features, are intact and reflect the original design of the architect.

The German Chapel, though in good condition, is a non-contributing resource because of its 1989 construction date. The log cabin is also

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non-contributing because it was moved to its present location in the 1960s and redone. The brick shed, a 1960s structure, blends with the design of other adjacent buildings, but is beyond the period of significance and therefore non-contributing. These buildings, however, do not detract from the overall integrity of the property.

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SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Farmers Delight is a significant property located on nearly 90 acres in western Loudoun County, Virginia. The dwelling was placed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. The property, though diminished in acreage from the original listing, still retains its setting and feeling and retains the original intent of the property design to remain listed on the National Register with the inclusion of previously omitted secondary resources.

The local significance of Farmers Delight is derived from its distinction as an early Loudoun County brick Federal-style two-story, five-bay, side-gable manor house in the Virginia Piedmont that has survived intact architecturally, with only compatible and sympathetic alterations, for over two-hundred years (National Register Criterion C). Its early-20th-century Colonial Revival-style additions, circa 1925 and circa 1940, and its extensive early- to mid-20th-century horse farm architecture, including stables and supporting machinery buildings, show how the property adapted to changing use and function without damaging the integrity of its setting and architectural core. The buildings history, through its ownership, including Colonel Joseph Flavius Lane, Henry W. Frost Jr., Ambassador George McGhee, and Landscape Designer Boris Timchenko, closely tie the property to events during the early development of the colonies, early-20th-century origins of the Virginia Thoroughbred Association, as well as its association with policy decisions of the early to mid-twentieth century and mid-20th-century landscape design, respectively. The property is also significant under National Register Criterion B in the area of Politics/Government for its association with Ambassador George McGhee beginning in 1948 with his purchase of the property. From 1948 to 1959, Ambassador McGhee held a number of important and influential government posts including his appointments as Assistant Secretary of State for the Near East, Africa and South Asia (1949-1951) and Ambassador to Turkey (1951-53). He later served as the Department of States Chairman of the Policy Planning Council, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, and Ambassador to West Germany. The period of significance begins in 1792 with the construction of the main house, and ends in 1959 with Ambassador McGhees continued ownership of the property.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Originally part of the Goose Creek Tract, the property now known as Farmers Delight was owned by Thomas Lord Fairfax in 1709, though

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managed by Robert King Carter. By 1727 Carter was in possession of the lands and in turn sold them to Dr. Charles Green in 1741, thus earning the name Greens Leislip. Green, during the mid-18th century, was a prominent landholder in the area. At his demise in 1756, the property transferred to Margaret Green, Charles's widow. Margaret Green then married William Savage and in 1768 released their interest to Thomas Owsley for two hundred pounds. In 1782 Thomas and Mary Owsley sold the property to Jacob Reed, who in turn sold the land in 1791 to Joseph Lane.¹⁴

Colonel Joseph Flavius Lane (1753-1803) was born into a prominent Virginia family. Lane was active in politics in the early 1790s and was a member of the Virginia General Assembly. In 1794 during the Whiskey Rebellion, Lane served as part of the military sent in to control the riots. During the mid-1790s he also received a commission as Lieutenant Colonel of the 56th Virginia Regiment.¹⁵ It was during this time that Colonel Lane built the two-story, brick mansion known as Farmers Delight.¹⁶ Speculation has suggested that an earlier stone cottage was incorporated into the building of the mansion. The foundation recently found under the north wing was most likely a stone kitchen; however, the deed to Joseph Lane from the Reeds did state that buildings were included in the sale although it was not specific as to type.¹⁷ Colonel Lane did not live long to enjoy his mansion house and died intestate in 1803 at the age of 50. As such his property was divided among his heirs. His wife, Katharine (also spelled Catharine) received her dower rights, as was typical of the time period, and the remainder was apportioned between his sons, Epaminondas and Flavius, and his daughter, Martha.¹⁸

In 1803 Katharine Lane applied for a declaration of insurance for 2,000 dollars against fire of her plantation house, which measured 43 by 24 feet, and, according to the accompanying plat, also included a detached stone kitchen 28 feet from the house. The mansion was revaluated again (still for 2,000 dollars) in 1815 suggesting that the house did not experience any improvements.¹⁹

In October of 1823, Epaminondas purchased from his sister, Martha, and her husband, Benjamin Mitchell, the house and lands of his father, excluding the dower rights of his mother, Katharine.²⁰ Flavius's share had already been divided among the remaining six heirs after his death. Epaminondas, by early 1824, was in failing health and in his will, dated January of that year, left the bulk of the property to his mother, Katharine. At her demise the mansion house and land was to go to his niece Emily Crane [sic] and nephew Joseph Crane [sic] and all his slaves were to be freed. The will also stated that his niece, Catharine Lane Jett, received all the personal property of his mother.²¹

Emily married Peter Gregg and in October of 1829 Joseph Crain sold his interest in the property to his sister and her husband. At the time of the 1840 Census, four free colored persons were residing on the property as well as seven others, not including Peter and Emily Gregg.²² The property was probated at the death of Peter, and in 1855 Emily sold half of the property, keeping her right to live at the house, to William Leith. After a year Emily sold the remaining half.²³

William Leith was a wealthy man; in 1860 his real estate was worth over \$24,000 and his personal estate over \$18,000. Leith also owned several slaves.²⁴ Where the slaves resided on the property is not evident. The property went through probate again after the death of William and the now 139-acre farm was divided among his many heirs, who in turn sold what was briefly called The Gregg Farm to Randolph Howard Leith in 1873. Leith married Martha Catherine Gregg, daughter of Peter and Emily Gregg and great-granddaughter of Joseph Lane, in 1853. Martha and the Leith family remained owners of Farmer's Delight until 1919 when it is sold to Henry W. Frost, Jr.²⁵

It is during the tenure of the Frost family, who owned the property from 1919-1948, that the first major additions to the property occurred. These alterations include the addition of the horse stables, dairy, and sundry sheds, and the hay barn. The north wing to the house was also added at this time. Henry W. Frost, Jr. was an avid horseman and was integral to the founding of the Virginia Thoroughbred Association, acting as the associations first secretary.²⁶

In 1948 the property was purchased by Ambassador George McGhee and his wife, Cecilia.²⁷ By far the most dramatic additions to the property were made under Ambassador McGhees ownership including the addition off the south wing, the German-style chapel, the present cemetery configuration as well as the arboretum, and in the rear, the terraced gardens. Noted landscape architect, Boris Timchenko was hired to design the garden areas circa 1950. Timchenko is best known for his landscape design of the Watergate complex, but was active in the design of gardenscapes for prominent Washington, D. C. families from the 1920s to the 1960s.²⁸

Ambassador McGhee, aside from his ambassadorial duties to Turkey (1951-1953) and West Germany (1963-1968), is most noted for his tenure as a Naval Intelligence Officer during World War II, Assistant Secretary of State for the Near East, Africa and South Asia (1949-1951), the Department of States Chairman of the Policy Planning Council (1961)

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and Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs (1961-1963), among other notable positions. He also played a part in Cold War policy.²⁹

During the time George and Cecilia McGhee owned Farmers Delight they entertained numerous important and well known persons at the house including President John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Adlai Stevenson and Prince Bernhard and Princess Beatrix of Holland among others. Locally Ambassador McGhee, along with Burr Powell Harrison, was integral in the formation of the Piedmont Environmental Council in 1972 which preserved and protected large tracts of land from development in Loudoun County.³⁰

The present configuration of the property is the result of parcels being transferred to family members in the 1990s. A protective easement was placed on the present property in 1992 and after the death of Ambassador McGhee in 2005, the property transferred to the McGhee Foundation.³¹

The Federal-style mansion house known as Farmers Delight is a testament to the types of large scale manor houses constructed in the late 18th century in the Virginia Piedmont. The architectural integrity of the buildings on the property, particularly the house and the early to mid-20th century equestrian and agricultural buildings, is intact and tells a comprehensive history of the evolution of the site as a whole.

The history of the property goes beyond the standing structures and persons who lived at Farmer s Delight. Much information may be gained through archaeological testing on the grounds which may locate earlier buildings and/or additions, if present, and the location of the family cemeteries on the property. Strategic and careful building archaeology of the manor house may also reveal a more in-depth evolution of changes not presently visible. In addition archaeological study would contribute to the interpretation of the mansion and the material lives of those who lived and worked at Farmers Delight.

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ENDNOTES

- ¹ Mutual Assurance Society Policies 1796-1865. Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia. Database developed at the Center for Instructional Technology, University of Mary Washington.
- ² A section of stone foundation was found under north wing, but is probably not associated with this stone kitchen.
- ³ Michele Tourney, McGhee Foundation Archivist, personal communication, September 9, 2008.
- ⁴ Ibid.
- ⁵ NRHP Nomination Form, 'Farmer's Delight,' 1973.
- ⁶ 1957 Aerial Photograph. Loudoun County Aerial Photographic Database. Accessed 2 September 2008.
- ⁷ Michele Tourney, McGhee Foundation Archivist, personal communication, 7 November 2008.
- ⁸ Michele Tourney, McGhee Foundation Archivist, personal communication, 2 September 2008.
- ⁹ Ibid.
- ¹⁰ Michele Tourney, McGhee Foundation Archivist, personal communication, 7 November 2008.
- ¹¹ Ibid.
- ¹² NRHP Nomination Form, 'Farmer's Delight,' 1973.
- ¹³ DC Preservation Advocate, Spring (2005) 1, 4-5.
- ¹⁴ Loudoun County Land Records. Books E:229, A:398, F:261-262, N:270 and T:114. On file at Circuit Court of Loudoun County, Leesburg, Virginia.
- ¹⁵ Records 56th Regiment dated 9 June 1795. Copy on file at the McGhee Foundation Archives, Middleburg, Virginia.
- ¹⁶ Loudoun County Marriage Bonds, 1762-1850. On file at Circuit Court of Loudoun County, Leesburg, Virginia.
- ¹⁷ Loudoun County Land Records. Book T:114-117. Copy on file at McGhee Foundation Archives, Middleburg, Virginia.
- ¹⁸ Loudoun County Wills. On file at Circuit Court of Loudoun County, Leesburg, Virginia.
- ¹⁹ Mutual Assurance Society Policies 1796-1865. Center of Instructional Technology, University of Mary Washington.
- ²⁰ Loudoun County Land Records. Book 3G:183. On file at Circuit Court of Loudoun County, Leesburg, Virginia.
- ²¹ Loudoun County Will. Book S:303-304. On file at Circuit Court of Loudoun County, Leesburg, Virginia. Anna Regina Cotter. 'Farmer's Delight Chronological Summary.' September 2006.
- ²² United States Bureau of Census. 6th Population Census of The United States, 1840.
- ²³ Loudoun County Land Records. Books 5M:81 and 50:443. On file at Circuit Court of Loudoun County, Leesburg, Virginia.
- ²⁴ United States Bureau of Census. 8th Population Census of The United States, 1860; United States Bureau of Census. Slave Population Census, 1860; Leithtown, in the vicinity of Farmer's Delight was named so after the Leith family.
- ²⁵ Loudoun County Land Records. Books 6E:405, 7L:369 and 9G213. On file at Circuit Court of Loudoun County, Leesburg, Virginia.
- ²⁶ Wolfe, Raymond Jr. 'A Thoroughbred Vision: The Origin and Inspiration of the Virginia Thoroughbred Association.' <http://www.vabred.org/history.cfm>. Accessed 2 September 2008.
- ²⁷ Loudoun County Land Records. Book 12V:134. On file at Circuit Court of Loudoun County, Leesburg, Virginia.
- ²⁸ 'The Watergate becomes a DC Landmark.' DC Preservation Advocate. Spring 2005: 1, 4-5.
- ²⁹ George C. McGhee, interview with Richard D. McKinzie. Truman Library, Washington, D.C. 11 July 1975.
- ³⁰ Audrey Windsor Bergner, Old Plantations and Historic Homes around Middleburg Virginia: And the Families Who Lived and Loved within Their Walls (Charlottesville, VA: Howell Press, Inc.) 114.

³¹ Loudoun County Land Records. Books 585:123-131, 1156:675, 1194:1630, 1194:1635, 1415:56 and 1455:499. On file at Circuit Court of Loudoun County, Leesburg, Virginia.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of Farmers Delight begins along Mountville Road at the southwest corner of the property, approximately 516 feet northeast of the intersection of Mountville and Foxcroft roads, and runs northwest approximately 453 feet to a fence line. The boundary then turns northeast along the fence line and small creek and runs approximately 2,338 feet then turns east for approximately 800 feet passing a small pond. The boundary turns southeast for approximately 1,800 feet to Mountville Road then turns southwest along the road approximately 2,734 feet to the beginning, encompassing 89.54 acres. The property is listed as Parcel ID number 566489847 in the Loudoun County, Virginia Tax Assessment (as shown on the attached parcel map).

Boundary Justification

The property boundaries of Farmers Delight have changed since its original 1973 listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Originally recorded as containing approximately 320 acres, the property now encompasses 89.54. During the 1990s the lands adjoining the present property to the northeast (Parcel ID numbers 565193773, 565300654, 533253484 and 565308795) and a small parcel to the southwest (Parcel ID number 566275260) were subdivided, the latter to the Foxcroft School. In 2006 the final parcel was transferred to the McGhee family heirs (Parcel ID number 565404549). The property as defined in the boundary description is the parcel (shown on the attached parcel map) most closely associated with the mansion and outbuildings and has not been altered or changed in terms of its historic integrity and rural character.

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All photographs are common to:

PROPERTY: Farmer's Delight

LOCATION: Loudoun County, Virginia

PHOTOGRAPHER: Emily Lindtveit and Justin Bedard

DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH: February 2008

LOCATION OF DIGITAL IMAGES: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA

VIEW: East Elevation of Mansion House Looking West

FILE: VA_Loudoun County_Farmer's Delight_0001

VIEW: West Elevation of Mansion House with Terraced Gardens Looking East

FILE: VA_Loudoun County_Farmer's Delight_0002

VIEW: Staircase (First Floor) Looking Northwest

FILE: VA_Loudoun County_Farmer's Delight_0003

VIEW: Parlor Fireplace Looking North

FILE: VA_Loudoun County_Farmer's Delight_0004

VIEW: Horse Stable (Right) and Colt Stable (Left) Looking North

FILE: VA_Loudoun County_Farmer's Delight_0005

VIEW: Dairy Barn Looking West

FILE: VA_Loudoun County_Farmer's Delight_0006

VIEW: Hay Barn (Right), Shed (Middle) and Barn (Left) Looking West

FILE: VA_Loudoun County_Farmer's Delight_0007

VIEW: Machinery Barn with Silo in Background Looking South

FILE: VA_Loudoun County_Farmer's Delight_0008

VIEW: Tenant House Looking Northwest

FILE: VA_Loudoun County_Farmer's Delight_0009

VIEW: Garage (Now Archives) Looking Southwest

FILE: VA_Loudoun County_Farmer's Delight_0010

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VIEW: Stone Garage (Now Library) and Log Structure Looking West

FILE: VA_Loudoun County_Farmer's Delight_0011

VIEW: German Style Chapel Looking West

FILE: VA_Loudoun County_Farmer's Delight_0012

VIEW: Terraced Garden "Fireplace" Looking South

FILE: VA_Loudoun County_Farmer's Delight_0013

VIEW: Terraced Garden Arbor Looking Southwest

FILE: VA_Loudoun County_Farmer's Delight_0014

VIEW: Dining Room Fireplace Looking Southwest

FILE: VA_Loudoun County_Farmer's Delight_0015

VIEW: Second Floor Bedroom Looking Southwest

FILE: VA_Loudoun County_Farmer's Delight_0016

VIEW: Second Floor Bedroom Looking Northeast

FILE: VA_Loudoun County_Farmer's Delight_0017

VIEW: Second Floor North Bedroom Looking Northeast

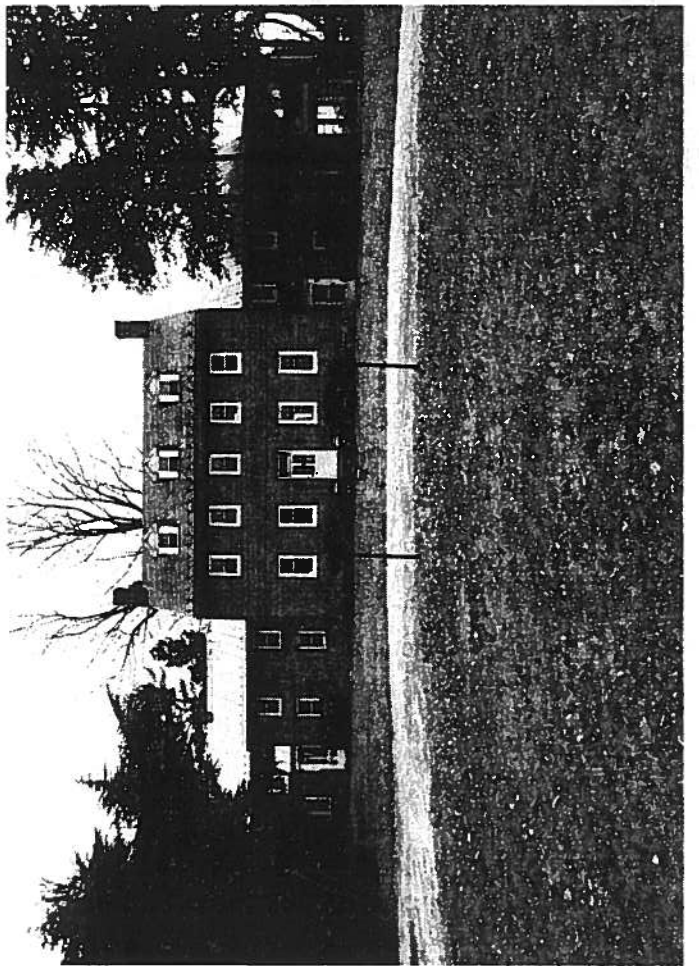
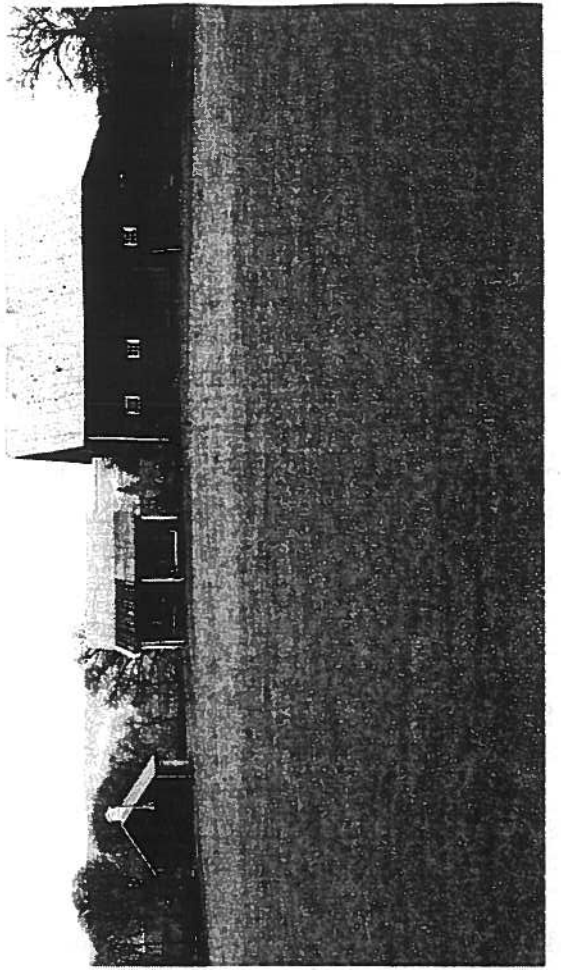
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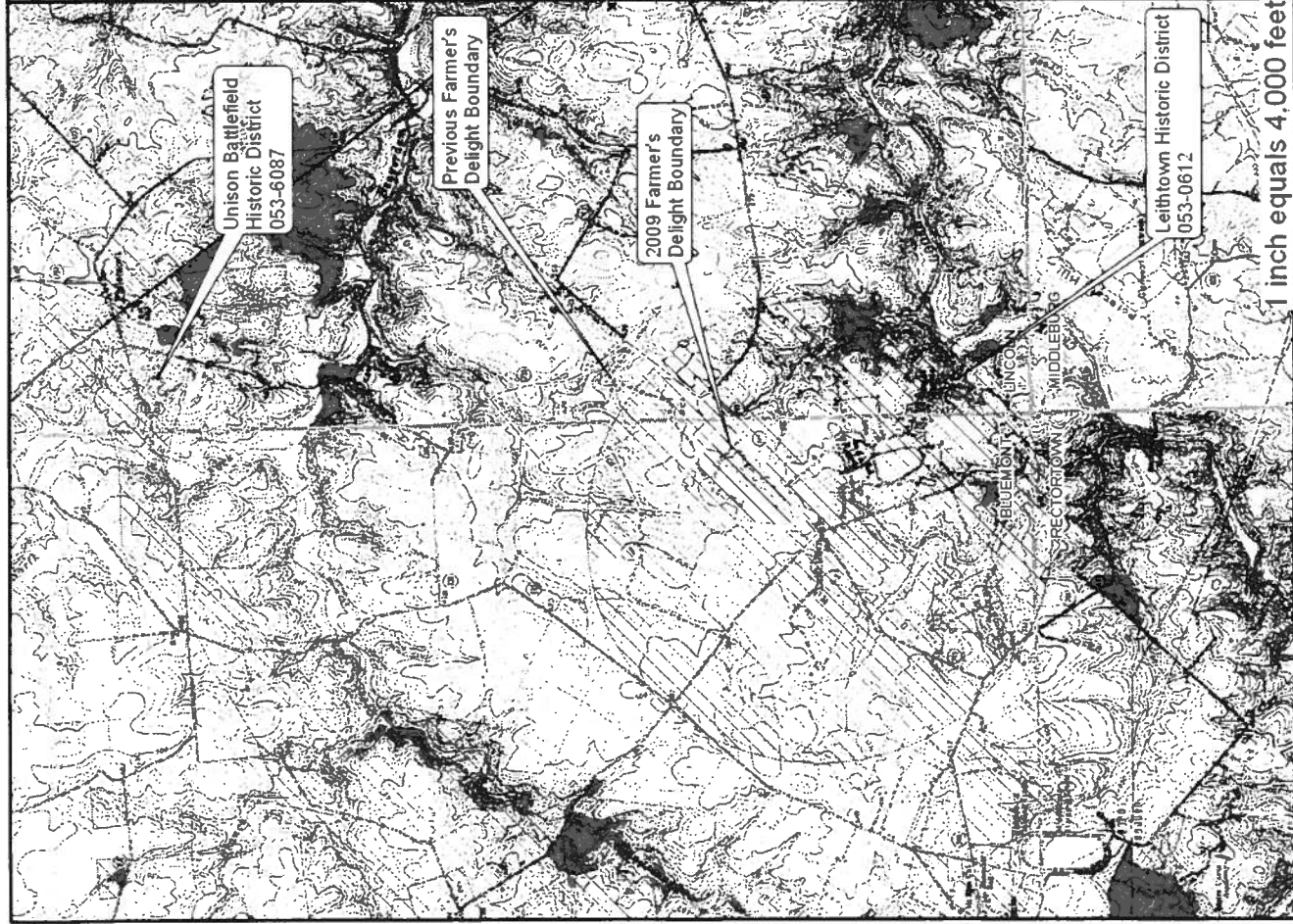
VIEW: Den in South Wing Looking Southwest

FILE: VA_Loudoun County_Farmer's Delight_0019

VIEW: 1940s Era Kitchen in Ell behind South Wing Looking Southwest

FILE: VA_Loudoun County_Farmer's Delight_0020





Farmer's Delight - Boundary Decrease **Loudon County, Bluemont Quads** **DHR ID# 053-0121**

- Farmer's Delight 2009 Boundary Decrease
- Farmer's Delight 1973 Boundary
- Architectural Resources
- USGS Grid Lines

